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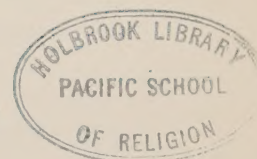
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under the auspices of

the WORLD COUNCIL of CHURCHES (in process of formation)
the INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL
the WORLD ALLIANCE for INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES
the WORLD ALLIANCE of YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
the WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
the WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION
the WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to keep its readers informed of trends of thought and opinion in and about the Churches and Christian movements. It is therefore not to be held responsible for opinions expressed in its news items.

No. 23

Fourteenth Year

June 13, 1947

Ecumenical Calendar, Summer 1947

The summer months 1947 will bring a large number of denominational and inter-denominational world conferences, meetings and courses. The following ecumenical calendar gives a survey of the most important of them.

June	12-17	Bossey	Meeting on: Christians in Public Life
	18-23	Amsterdam	Meeting of the United Bible Societies
	19-20	Geneva	Business Committee, Reconstruction Department
	23-26	Bossey	Meetings to prepare for the Assembly, and Study Department Commission of World Council of Churches
	30-July 6	Lund	Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation
July	4-9	Bossey	Course for University Teachers organised by the World's Student Christian Federation
	6-24	Whitby	Conference of the International Missionary Council
	12-14	Bossey	Executive Committee of the World's Student Christian Federation
	17-21	Oslo	Preparatory Leaders Conference for the World Christian Youth Conference
	22-31	Oslo	Second World Conference of Christian Youth
	29-August 3	Copenhagen	Conference of the Baptist World Alliance
	31-August 10	Bossey	Teachers' Conference
August	1-6	Canterbury	International Anglican Youth Conference
	1-6	Göteborg	World's Y.W.C.A. Post Oslo Conference
	1-9	Lundborg	World's Student Christian Federation Post Oslo Conference
	2-7	Lund	World Council's Youth Department (leaders conference)
	2-7	Ljunskille	World Alliance of Y.M.C.A.s Post Oslo Conference
	3-7	Buffalo	World Convention of Disciples of Christ
	7-8	Geneva	Joint Executive of the Ecumenical Refugee Commission

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August 12-21	Edinburgh	Meeting of the World's Committee of Y.M.C.A.s
18-22	Birmingham	General Assembly of World Sunday School Association
24-31	Bossey	Course for Doctors
27-Sept.2	Clarens (Lake of Geneva)	Continuation Committee of Faith and Order

E.P.S.Geneva

Closing of Youth Leaders Conference at Bossey

The Spring term of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey organised under the common auspices of the World Council of Churches, the World's Student Christian Federation the World's Y.W.C.A. and the World Alliance of Y.M.C.A.s came to an end on June 6th. Forty-three youth leaders and members of youth movements from 21 nations lived together, studied and worked and played together for seven weeks. As young people, used to camp and conference procedure, they found their way to friendship and Christian fellowship remarkably soon. Deep gulfs of hatred, still separating their nations, were faced and bridged in long, honest conversations. Towards the end of the course, M. M. Thomas of India led the delegates in a service of worship according to the practice of the Mar Thoma Church, ending in an ancient oriental gesture of forgiveness and peace, mutually exchanged by all. This service was preceded by a heart-searching discussion, as to whether this rite could be observed in all sincerity. At the end, a communion service sealed all again with the sign of Christ's peace.

Bible study, under Mademoiselle Suzanne de Dietrich's direction, was a regular feature of the morning sessions. The ten Oslo questions were discussed, and those who were Oslo delegates were thus better prepared, while the others had a taste of the conference without going. Wednesday afternoons were regularly assigned for trips to Geneva, where the staff of the various departments of the sponsoring organisations explained their work.

Other leaders, such as Dr Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches and Dr Tracy Strong, general secretary of the World Alliance of Y.M.C.A.s came to Bossey to present their views and answer questions. Professor Emil Brunner of Switzerland, Canon Herklots of England, Walter Horton of the United States, gave extended series of lectures. Much time was devoted to conference on practical methods of youth work and discussion of social and political issues. Morning and evening worship rounded out the day. By general agreement, this was a really successful session, full of promise for the future usefulness of the Institute as a world centre of Christian thought and inspiration.

At the closing meeting appreciation of the fellowship offered by the Ecumenical Institute was expressed by a number of students. "The coordination of Christian forces", said one of them, "overcoming all race prejudices, should be effectuated by a larger Bossey". "There is no fellowship without recognition of guilt," stated another one. "When we realise how guilty we are we have fellowship with God, and through Him a new fellowship among us. We have experienced this world wide fellowship in Bossey." "I have discovered at Bossey the scandal of the divided Christian world and this thought will never leave me". All these experiences were summarised in these words: "In spite of all misunderstanding, we have unity in Christ."

E.P.S. Geneva

UNITED STATESMore Overseas Church Relief

A goal of \$60,000,000 for 1947 and 1948 for overseas relief in both Europe and Asia was approved by representatives of sixteen Protestant denominations meeting in New York on May 1, 1947.

The meeting was called by Church World Service at the request of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and was attended by representatives of the council, mission boards, denominational relief and reconstruction agencies, the World Council of Churches and the Foreign Missions Conference of North America.

In accordance with the approval, a committee was authorised to transmit an appeal to denominational officials to join in raising the \$60,000,000, half of which would be channeled through Church World Service. The committee is headed by Dr Lloyd S. Ruland, secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Dr A.L. Warnshuis, executive vice president of Church World Service, in a general statement on the purpose of the conference, said: "The welfare of the world lies very largely with our American Churches and what American Churches are going to do in meeting the needs of the world. This meeting is just as important as the meetings of the United Nations in Flushing Meadow and at Lake Success." Contributions by American Churches in 1946 were \$30,000,000, which "were pitifully inadequate."

Dr J. Hutchison Cockburn, director of the Department of Reconstruction and Interchurch Aid of the World Council of Churches, said that unless European civilisation could be rebuilt on a spiritual foundation "all plans of economists and statesmen will fail."

E.P.S. Geneva

AFRICAWide Plans for Missionary Work

The principles of "trusteeship", as developed by the United Nations as standards for the development of dependent peoples, offer to the vast populations of Africa the greatest hope for economic and social development and for future self-government, in the opinion of the African Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. The Committee held its annual meeting from May 30 to June 1, at Hartford Seminary, United States. Counselling with the Committee were representatives of the British missionary societies, of the United Nations, and of some of the colonial governments and of the United States State Department.

In outlining plans for future strategy of both European and American Protestant missions to Africa, the Committee listed among the priorities the development of higher educational institutions; the strengthening of united Protestant councils of Churches in the various colonies; the stressing among the peoples of the idea and ideals of the Christian home; the development of a comprehensive programme of public health, especially in relation to the tropic diseases; the securing of hundreds of new missionaries; and closer cooperation among mission boards and with colonial governments in developing services leading towards their common goals.

Dr Emory Ross, executive secretary of the Africa Committee pointed out that some mission groups in some colonies have helped develop an indigenous Christian Church. The Africa Committee and the regional Christian Councils will especially keep in mind the need for both the university-trained minister and the pastor close to the primitive village and tribe.

The American mission boards have now about 200 new missionaries ready to enter service in Africa within the next year. At the same time, these same agencies are now seeking about 180 more young people for service in Africa, for business administration, education, evangelism, agriculture and trades teaching,^{as} doctors & nurses. In many of these fields Negroes, Japanese Americans and others from minority groups in America, or displaced persons from Europe will be acceptable to African colonial governments if they have the requisite training. They will be trained in Brussels, Paris, Lisbon and London. E.P.S. Geneva

UNITED STATES

World Congress of Religion

The Church Peace Union (founded by Andrew Carnegie) announces that a World Congress of Religion in support of the United Nations will be held in Boston from October 23-27, 1948.

"The Congress will seek to create a world wide sentiment in behalf of the things for which vital religion stands... The delegates will be asked to accept the following four points as basic to the purpose and the programme of the Congress: A belief in a Supreme Being; A desire for fellowship, understanding, and the practice of human brotherhood; Cooperation to help secure international justice, promote good will, and provide for all men everywhere the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; Acceptance of the over-all purpose of the Congress to unite men and women of all religious faiths in support of the United Nations."

The purposes are described as follows:

"1. The Congress will ask what each religion can contribute. How can the adherents of the religions effectively support the United Nations and its constituent agencies?

"2. The World Congress will be a conference of individuals associated with, but not committing, the organised bodies of the different faiths. No one will be encouraged to boast either of the past or of the superiority of his particular faith.

"3. The Congress will not attempt to establish a formal league of religions; questions relating to doctrine, dogmas, and forms of faith and worship will not be discussed.

"4. In brief, the Congress will consider how the forces of religion in all nations can be mobilised into a concerted action in support of the United Nations and its efforts to establish a peaceful, friendly world." E.P.S. Geneva

SWITZERLAND

Conference on Christian Approach to the Jews

The International Missionary Council's Committee on the Christian Approach to the Jews met at Basle from June 4-7, 1947 under the leadership of Rev. C.H. Gill, London, and with about 60 participants representing Missions to the Jews over the whole world. The conference dealt especially with the problems of the mission among the Jews in the post-war world and with the needs of the Christians of Jewish origin. Lectures included: "The Biblical Foundation of Jewish Missions" by Bishop Torsten Ysander, Sweden, "Church and Jewish Evangelism" by Dr Hans Kosmala, London, "Church, Zionism and Nationalism" by Rev. R. Brunner, Basle, and "The Church and Anti-Semitism" by Prof. Walter Horton, Geneva. The following resolution on "Church and Evangelism" was drawn up:

The American mission boards have now about 100 new missionaries ready to enter service in Africa within the next year. At the same time, these same boards are now seeking about 100 more young people for service in Africa. For business and industrial education, syndicalist, syndicalist and other forms of minority groups in some of these fields. These American and other forms of minority groups in some of these fields. These American and other forms of minority groups in some of these fields. They will be trained in Geneva.

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The purposes are described as follows:

- "1. The Congress will ask what each religion can contribute. How can the adherents of the religions effectively support the United Nations and its constituent purposes?"
- "2. The World Congress will be a conference of individuals associated with, but not necessarily, the organized bodies of the different faiths. No one will be engaged in doing either of the tasks of the superintendence of his particular faith."
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E.F.B. Geneva

Conference on Christian Approach to the Jews

SWITZERLAND

The International Missionary Council's Committee on the Christian Approach to the Jews met at Basel from June 4-7, 1947 under the leadership of Rev. G.H. Gillet, and with about 50 participants representing missions to the Jews over the whole world. The conference dealt especially with the problems of Jewish people in the post-war world and with the needs of the Christians of Jewish origin. Lectures included: "The Biblical Foundation of Jewish Missions" by Bishop Torsten Yarnstrom, Sweden; "Church and Jewish Evangelism" by Dr. Hans Kasper, London; "Church, Christian and Nationalism" by Rev. A. Brown, Basel; and "The Church and Anti-Semitism" by Prof. Walter Horken, Geneva. The following resolution on "Church and Evangelism" was drawn up:

"The Church, in trying to save itself, is always in danger of becoming institutionalised and thus losing its real inner life. In order to fulfil its divine imperative the Church must lose itself in proclaiming to all the glorious Gospel and the new life in Christ. To except the Jews is to rob them of their rightful heritage. The mission to the Jews is the oldest of all and the Church, in forgetting to maintain this mission to the Jews, has sinned.

The Gospel of Christ is not inconsistent with freedom of conscience, but presupposes it and guarantees it, and whatever methods of evangelism are used must never violate the sacredness of personality and must be morally beyond reproach.

Realising fully the importance of clear theological conception we are nevertheless convinced that the strongest argument in winning others for Christ is the radiance and contagion of personal victorious living and the outgoing of God's love expressed in personal human contacts. As this is expressed and experienced in a genuine Christian fellowship and community the impact of the Gospel will be felt.

As the new household of God is built up, composed of those who have become new creatures in Christ, there is no longer any difference between those who have come from Hebrew or Gentile household and the middle wall of partition is broken down. The Gospel in its fulness is the fulfilment of the highest beliefs and hopes of ancient Israel. As Paul emphasised the sharing of the Jews with the Gentiles, we would emphasise the readiness of the Gentiles to respond by cordially inviting the Jews to share with us what we have discovered of the richness of Christ.

We feel very strongly that kindness and friendship movements, while necessary and valuable in themselves, are insufficient, unless leading to evangelism.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation of the work of all who launched out in faith on this work of Jewish evangelisation and who have brought the work so far. Much as we admire those who have unselfishly and zealously worked in this field we realise it must become the genuine concern of the whole Church, as well as of every congregation. We therefore call on the Churches everywhere to take the work to heart. We further recommend that the study of appropriate and practical steps to this end should be taken by the I.M.C. and the proposed new Department of Evangelism of the World Council of Churches."

Rev. Birger Pernow, Sweden, was elected as new Chairman of the International Committee on the Christian Approach to the Jews for the next three years.

E.P.S. Geneva

DENMARK

Gift of Churches in Norway and Finland

Some time ago the Bishops of Denmark obtained permission from the Danish Government to raise a subscription all over the country for the purpose of presenting a church to both Norway and Finland. In order to carry out this plan a committee was formed whose chairman is Bishop Fuglsang-Damgaard, of Copenhagen. In the introduction to the list of subscriptions the Bishop states that in gratitude for the preservation of the churches of Denmark during the war the Danish Church had decided to build two churches in Northern Norway and Northern Finland. During their retreat in these areas the Germans used the scorched earth policy; thus there is now a great work at hand for rebuilding houses and churches north of the

polar circle. The church to be presented to Finland is to be built at Salla, a town far in the north near the frontier of Soviet Russia, which was twice destroyed by war activities. The Norwegian church is to be erected at the entrance of Kölle Fjord where there is the most northern fishing village of Norway.

The Danish Prime Minister, Knud Kristensen, and Bishop Rosendal have spoken on the scheme over the Danish radio. E.P.S. Geneva

Brief News

Great Britain:- "Conversations" have begun at Lambeth Palace between the representatives of the Anglican and Free Churches appointed to discuss the question of closer communion between the Churches (see EPS No. 16). The Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed the company. The Bishop of Derby, Dr A.E.J. Rawlinson, and Principal N. Micklem of Mansfield College, were elected chairman of the Anglican and Free Church delegates respectively. E.P.S. Geneva

China:- The National Christian Council of China has resumed its weekly broadcast over the Christian Broadcasting Station (1120 K.C.). It is now on the air every Monday noon from 12.45 to 1.15. The general theme of the broadcast, which is in English, is "Religion in the News". E.P.S. Geneva

Canada:- The first Russian Orthodox Bishop of Montreal and Eastern Canada was recently consecrated in New York. The consecration service was presided over by the Metropolitan Theophilus, Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church in North America. The new Bishop is the Archmandrite Anthony, who has been Rector of the Russian Orthodox Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Montreal for six years. E.P.S. Geneva

Canada:- Swords are being turned into ploughshares by the Home Mission Board of the United Church of Canada. Recently the Board bought a small warship from the War Assets Corporation and sent it to sea as one of a fleet of seven craft to do mission work on Canada's eastern coast and around Newfoundland. E.P.S. Geneva

U.S.S.R.

Impressions on Church Life

The question of the religious revival in the U.S.S.R. has just been described in two articles by M. André Pierre, one in "Réforme" (May 31, 1947), and the other in "La Semaine du Monde" (May 10, 1947); both these periodicals appear in Paris. The author has just spent several weeks in Moscow at the Conference of the Great Powers and was specially interested in the religious question.

M. Pierre was very impressed by the religious services which he saw in Russia. "There is an atmosphere of extraordinary fervour", he said. "These people have gathered together to affirm their faith with enthusiasm and to express their devotion to the faith of their forefathers. They are no longer afraid of expressing their religious feelings in public... and they observe all the old customs of the Orthodox Church."

The official propaganda of materialist Marxism goes on, without affecting the rights of believers. On the other hand "the official publications of the Patriarch do not worry the Government, and praise its liberal policy towards the Orthodox Church... Although atheist propaganda is still carried on in the schools, the Church is now able to put up a spiritual fight against this propaganda. The heads

of the Church are optimistic, because conditions seem to be favourable for propaganda in favour of Christian spiritual communism and the precepts of the Gospel."

"Temporal and spiritual power have made concessions to one another. The Government has realised that it cannot eradicate the religious faith of the Russian people by force. The Church has realised that opposition to the new régime can only result in its own isolation from the Russian people... Alluding to the past, the Metropolitan of Leningrad said to me: 'We have all made mistakes; none of us are blameless'."

The heads of the Church maintain that "it is regaining its influence on youth. The Church has been regenerated through persecution; separated from the State but deeply loyal to the State and to its chief, Staline, the Church is faced by an enormous task." On the other hand the State is prepared to restore the cathedrals of Our Lady of Kazan and of St. Isaac at Leningrad. But in the war-devastated villages the Church hesitates to rebuild the churches while the peasants are still living in underground shelters.

M. André Pierre states that the Orthodox Russian Church "is very favourably disposed towards the ecumenical movement and towards the realisation of Christian brotherhood." It enjoys the most cordial relations with the prelates of the Church of England, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. But like the Moscow government itself, the Orthodox Church is in open strife with the Vatican and is putting up a lively resistance to Catholicism on the Western frontiers of Russia. "The old rivalry is far from dead."
E.P.S. Geneva

U.S.S.R.

Moscow Through Russian Orthodox Eyes

The attitude of the Patriarchate is dominated by a clear consciousness of the rôle of Moscow on the religious and social plane. On the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the foundation of Moscow in 1947 the priest Haryousov writes in the "Bulletin of the Patriarchate":

"Moscow is not only our past and our present but also our future. It is the centre of social life and humanity... the starting-point of all the progressive and democratic elements. In religious life Moscow is neither the centre of aristocratic and despotic Catholicism, nor the centre of anarchist Protestantism. It is the meeting-point of pure Orthodoxy, which rejects these two extremes... God grant that the magnificent old town, our little mother Moscow, may remain till the end of time the unshakable magnetic rock which attracts all those who are struggling for their political, national and religious freedom and who are the sons and daughters of the holy Orthodox Church."
E.P.S. Geneva

GERMANY

A Word About The Situation

On June 7, 1947 the Conference of provincial German church-leaders was held at Treysa, and was well attended. The following message was published:

"The Church Conference, which has met at Treysa to discuss internal church questions, feels compelled to mention its heavy anxiety, that after so much bloodshed, instead of at last achieving peace and spiritual renewal, mankind is rushing into the immeasurable horror of fresh self-destruction.

"Out of our own painful and guilty experience, and yet impregnated with the love of Jesus Christ, we bear witness to the world that the way to salvation is not through power but through love. God did not establish the nations in order that they might strive for more and more power, either for material purposes or for any kind of human ideals; He established them so that they might avoid self-seeking, maintain the right, protect the weak from exploitation by the strong, and promote the welfare of their peoples. The states have no right to enforce ideas and to establish laws which are contrary to God's commandments. They have no right to uproot people by force for political purposes, to push millions of people about the earth by force, to retain prisoners of war for years of forced labour, to arrest people without public trial for an indefinite period, and to keep whole nations in permanent starvation in order to carry out military rearmament. We must all learn to think again and our respect for the life of the individual and our understanding of the special characteristics of the different nations should be more important to us than all the aims of external power.

But this re-thinking can only be done if we are prepared to make God's will the guiding principle of all human life.

We therefore ask all whom it concerns: make room for the Gospel in the life of the nations, especially in the education of the new generation! In every sphere of life let us recognise love and goodness and restrict our own selfishness! This is the only way of overcoming the external difficulties of the present time. For the words of Jesus Christ are still true today: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness, and all this shall be added unto you!'

But above all we appeal to the clergy and the Christian people of our Churches: Think of the special responsibility which God has laid upon Christendom at this time! The renewal must begin among the followers of Jesus Christ: In divine services, in the instruction of young people, in church meetings, in all discussions about the confession and order of the Church, their witness must be: not to fight one another, not to complain, not to reproach one another, but in every thought and act to be true to the obedience and love of Jesus Christ. Through all God's judgments His promise shines: 'O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea'. This peace and justice rescue us from the hopelessness and distress of our time."

E.P.S. Geneva

EGYPT

The Study of Problems of World Order

For the past five years a group of Christian leaders in Cairo has organised a number of lectures, under the general heading of "Christianity and World Order". The group includes members of the Roman Catholic, Uniate, Greek Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Armenian Gregorian, Anglican, Reformed and Evangelical Churches (see E.P.S.No. 46, 1946). Last winter it has arranged a study circle on "Religion and World Order", to which were invited a few selected leaders of the Moslem and Jewish communities. Two public lectures have been held. At the first of these, Dr. Henry Sloan Coffin, formerly President of the Union Theological Seminary in New York, spoke on "The Kingdom of God and History". At the second, Dr Adolf Keller of Geneva lectured on "The Problems and Tasks of the World Council of Churches", and pleaded for a deeper study by all Churches of the inner meaning of each others faith and spiritual experience.

E.P.S. Geneva

Germany:- Oberlandeskirchenrat Dr Hanns Lilje has been elected Bishop of Hanover as successor to Dr Marahrens, who has resigned. Bishop Lilje has received an

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